
JMPS Middle School Dress Code 24-25

Revised June 12, 2024

General Dress Code Guidelines

The James Madison Preparatory School Dress Code strives to help students understand appropriate attire in educational, sporting, and other communal environments. It is designed with simplicity, safety, efficiency, comfort, and professionalism in mind. All students are required to always be in the JMPS Dress Code when on the school campus unless given permission to do so otherwise by administration, faculty, or staff personnel. Students who violate the Dress Code are subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion for repeat offenses. Students who repeatedly violate the Dress Code demonstrate disrespect for the school and for their peers who follow it.

As stated above, the Dress Code applies to students on campus before, during, and after school.

- Students who are unsure whether a particular outfit or article of clothing falls inside the Dress Code should bring the clothing into the principal for pre-approval.
- Students are not to change clothes on campus unless given permission to do so by a staff member, such as for a school event or activity.
- Dress Codes apply to JMPS students attending school-sponsored events off-campus, such as field trips, unless otherwise indicated by administration.
- Guests of students are also to be in Dress Code.
- The Dress Code for specific, school-sponsored activities will be announced in a timely manner prior to the activity, and students who are out of Dress Code for such events will not be allowed to participate.
 - If there is no specific announcement regarding an event, it is best to follow the regular school Dress Code. No announcement does not mean no Dress Code.
- Students who are out of Dress Code for off-campus or after-school events will be subject to on-campus consequences.
- Tattoos and body piercings other than earrings must be kept covered.
- Acne patches or bandages on face/body must be skin tone (neutral).
- The administration and staff reserve the right to prohibit clothing or accessories that are not addressed in the Dress Code.

General Rules for all clothing and accessories:

- All clothing must be of appropriate size to wearer
 - No over-sizing/under-sizing
 - Bottoms must be worn at waist level and not drag on ground
 - Length of shorts, skirts, skorts, and dresses must not be more than 2 inches above wearer's knee
 - Tops must fit so that if student raises their hands over their head, their torso is not exposed

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- Clothing and accessories should be clean
- No ragged, torn (ripped), or stained clothing or accessories
- No sheer or translucent clothing
- No vulgar, profane, or violent wording or images

Middle School Dress Code

This is the main uniform Dress Code JMPS middle school students are required to wear on campus each day. It is recommended that families look for pants or shorts that are labeled or designated to be “school uniform” as these generally fit the requirements below. The General Rules for all clothing and accessories apply to all Dress Codes.

Bottoms:

- Must be khaki – tan color
- Permitted:
 - Pants
 - Walking Shorts
 - Skirts
 - Skorts
- Prohibited:
 - Denim
 - Overalls
 - Cargo pants/shorts
 - Pajamas
 - Athletic/sweat/yoga/swimsuit material
 - Athletic/sweat/yoga/swimsuit fit
 - Drawstring waist or elastic cuffs
 - Patterns/designs

Tops:

- Permitted:
 - Black color only
 - Must have a collar (i.e., polo or dress shirt collar)
 - Must be worn tucked in
 - No logo
 - Must be buttoned to top of student’s sternum
 - May be long or short sleeved

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Shoes:

- Must be worn at all times
- Permitted:
 - Walking or athletic shoes in the permitted colors:
 - Dark Brown
 - Black
 - Shoe soles must be the same color as the shoe upper
 - Shoelaces and any logo must also be same color as shoe
- Prohibited:
 - Untied shoes
 - Open-toed or open-backed shoes
 - Crocs or similar style sandals or shoes

Socks:

- Must be worn at all times
- Must match one another
- Must be school appropriate
- May be any color or pattern
 - No words or wording

Belts:

- Must be worn if the bottom has belt loops
- Permitted:
 - Solid black or dark brown leather
- Prohibited:
 - Cloth belts
 - Logos or decoration (e.g., grommets, sparkles, etc.)
- The end of the belt when extended from the buckle must not dangle more than three (3) inches beyond the belt buckle

Underwear:

- Must be worn at all times
- Must remain concealed beneath the wearer's clothing
- Logos or brand names must not be visible

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Headgear:

- Permitted:
 - Sunglasses, with parental consent (outdoor use only)
- Prohibited:
 - Non-prescription glasses
 - Hats*
 - *May be worn during PE for sun protection; see PE Dress Code below
 - Hoods of any kind worn over the head at any time

Jewelry:

- Permitted:
 - one (1) watch
 - one (1) bracelet
 - two (2) pairs of stud earrings or small hoops - no bigger than a dime (The school is not liable if the earrings get ripped out of a student's ear)
 - one (1) ring
 - one (1) necklace
 - Charm on necklace should be limited to one charm no larger than a quarter
- Prohibited:
 - Body-piercing jewelry
 - Gauges

Winter Weather Attire:

- Permitted:
 - Solid color outerwear, including:
 - Jackets
 - Sweatshirts
 - Sweaters
 - Outerwear may have a legitimate college, university, US Armed Services, or JMPS logo
- Prohibited:
 - Items with words, pictures, advertisements, or logos (exceptions listed above)
 - Patterned items
 - Jackets worn in classrooms
 - Hoods worn over the head at any time
 - Trench coats

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Physical Education Dress Code

JMPS has a Physical Education (PE) Dress Code which allows students to participate in PE activities safely and comfortably. Students must be in proper Dress Code for PE to participate. In addition to the General Rules, the PE Dress Code is as follows:

Bottoms:

- Permitted:
 - Athletic wear shorts or pants
 - JMPS logos
 - Any solid color
 - Small brand, college, US Armed Forces logos, or JMPS logos are permitted

Tops:

- Permitted:
 - Any solid color top/tee
 - May be short or long sleeve

Accessories:

- Athletic shoes must be worn
- Crew length (above the ankle) athletic socks must be worn
- For outdoor activities:
 - Hats and sunglasses are encouraged
 - Hats follow the same rules as above for design/logos
 - Sunscreen is encouraged

Prohibited for PE:

- Items with cartoon, movie characters, or images
- Items with printed sayings
- Large logos
- Patterns/designs, including tie dye
- Tank tops
- Pajamas
- Shorts that are more than 2 inches above the wearer's knee
- Jewelry – must be removed, for safety
 - If student has newly pierced ears, they must cover their earlobes with bandages until they can safely remove the jewelry
- Uniform Dress Code dress shoes
- Canvas Converse or skateboarding shoes
- Hiking shoes

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In addition to any Dress Code enforcement procedure consequences, failure to follow these rules will impact the student's PE grade as follows:

- If students do not have the proper attire, they will not get participation points for that day.
- If jewelry is worn to an activity, participation points will be taken away for that day. The students will still be allowed to participate after removing the jewelry if they choose to. This rule does not apply to students with newly pierced ears if they follow the above-mentioned rule.

Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to which can be filled up throughout the day with the school drinking fountains. Students are also encouraged to wear sunscreen for outdoor activities.

Themed Event Dress Code

Some school days or after-school events are given a theme (e.g., Hawaiian, 80's, Jeans Day, etc.) which applies in accordance with the Dress Code. Specifics for the theme are announced in advance during assembly and included in the newsletter available anytime in the JMPS app. If a day is announced as Dress Down Day, students are required to wear jeans, any closed-toed shoes, and a JMPS t-shirt.

Students are not exempt from the Dress Code if there is a theme for an event and have shown great ingenuity in finding items that both fit the theme and code. Students are not required to dress up on themed days. If they choose not to participate, they must dress in the Code that applies to the time of the event (e.g., themed school days require Uniform Dress Code or themed semi-formal events follow the Occasion Dress Code).

Formal and Semi-formal Occasion Dress Code

At certain times during the school year, students gather in social settings and for school functions at which formal or semi-formal dress is most appropriate. Examples of such gatherings include prom, athletic or arts banquets, concerts, field trips to the theater or museums, or the homecoming dance. Because JMPS students are representing themselves, their families, and their school, it is vital that the best examples of dress and decorum be demonstrated.

JMPS high school graduation is a particularly important event, and it is expected that all students attending the ceremony dress in their usual JMPS Uniform Dress Code or in semi-formal dress. All attendees, whether JMPS students or other family or friends of the graduates, are also encouraged to dress in business casual attire or better for the event.

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Before such events, an administrator will announce the appropriate dress, and students must comply. Those who do not dress appropriately will be turned away and may be subject to on-campus consequences.

In general:

“Formal” includes an evening (or other) dress or pantsuit of appropriate formality befitting the event, including strapless and spaghetti strap dresses, a tuxedo or a suit, dress shirt and tie, and polished dress shoes.

“Semi-formal” includes an outfit of appropriate formality befitting the event, such as professional business attire (blazer or sport coat, dress shirt, tie, slacks, daytime dress/skirt/top), and dress or casual professional shoes.

All attire must be modest, school appropriate, and within the spirit of the JMPS Dress Code.

Extracurricular Sports Dress Code – Student Athletes

School-sponsored extracurricular sports are part of the JMPS Dress Code and in addition to the General Rules, have separate uniform and practice clothing requirements for participating student athletes. Game uniforms are established by the supervising coach for each sport.

At practice, whether on or off-campus, student athletes represent the JMPS community. The practice Dress Code for student athletes is:

- T-Shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Shorts that are less than two inches above the wearer’s knee
- Sweatpants
- Spandex may be worn if it is no more than 2 inches above the knee

Students may mix and match the above based on weather conditions. On occasion, the coach may establish a specific practice uniform. Students may not hike up shorts or spandex.

Permitted colors for athletic shorts and t-shirts:

- Red
- Gray
- Light Blue
- Dark Blue
- Black

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In addition to the General Rules, the following types or styles of athletic attire are prohibited:

- Sleeveless A- or T-shirts
- Items with a non-JMPS branded logo larger than six (6) square inches
- Pajamas

Extracurricular Sports Dress Code – Student Spectators

As with all school-sponsored events, JMPS students are representing themselves, their families, and their school. It is expected that the best examples of dress and decorum be demonstrated. In addition to the General Rules:

- Tank tops are permitted
- Shorts that reach no more than two inches above the knee
- Underwear must be covered
- Jeans and denim without tears/holes are permitted
- Hats and visors are permitted
- Any sort of shoe is allowed to be worn

Personal Hygiene

Grooming, neatness, and proper hair care receive the same thoughtful attention as student dress and are included in the overall JMPS Dress Code. Judgments about proper personal cleanliness are at the discretion of the administration. For the sake of classmates and others on the campus, students should bathe at least daily, and the use of deodorant is highly encouraged. Students whose hygiene is in question may receive hygiene coaching and their parents may be notified. Caring for one's personal hygiene during class and/or in classrooms is expressly prohibited.

Highlighting, frosting, or other hair coloring must be natural in appearance; hair shall not be dyed unnatural colors. Hair must be kept trimmed so that the student's eyes are always clearly visible. Bangs longer than the eyebrows must always be kept out of the student's eyes. Generally, students' hair should be clean and neatly combed or styled. Twisting, spiking, and excessive use of hair gel or spray is prohibited. Facial hair should be neatly trimmed. Hats, hairnets, and bandannas are prohibited.

Tattoos (temporary or permanent) must be covered at all times while on campus or at school-sponsored events. This includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.

Makeup is permitted and should be applied appropriately in the restroom. Heavy eyeliner and gaudy makeup of garish or flamboyant colors or design are not permitted. Solid, light colors are permissible. Fingernail polish may be any color.